

CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY

COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The City of Cathedral City General Plan has been prepared in compliance with California law, which requires that all cities and counties adopt a General Plan. The General Plan is the primary land use tool used by the City in assisting in the development and redevelopment of the City. This General Plan includes the goals, policies and programs which the City will utilize in making land use decisions in the future. In addition, each Element includes diagrams, historic and current data and information, and projections for the future.

BACKGROUND

The City of Cathedral City is located in the Coachella Valley, in eastern Riverside County. The City is bordered on the west by the City of Palm Springs, and on the east by the City of Rancho Mirage. The City currently includes 19.5 square miles of land, extending from the Santa Rosa Mountains on the south, to Edom Hill on the north. This General Plan addresses not only the 12,502 acres located within the City limits, but also the 3,267 acres of the City's Sphere of Influence. These lands are located north of Interstate 10.

Public Participation

The General Plan was developed through a series of public meetings over a period of several years. This public participation process culminated in several public workshops held by the Planning Commission and City Council, meeting jointly, in 2001 and 2002. The input provided by residents at these meetings was incorporated into the General Plan. Following the required public comment period, public hearings were held by both the Planning Commission and City Council, to receive further input from the public on the contents of this document.

General Plan Format

The City of Cathedral City General Plan includes two documents: This General Plan and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report. These documents together are the framework for land use decisions in the City, including residential density, commercial and industrial intensity, and open space and park areas. The General Plan includes summaries of background information which is provided in greater detail in the Environmental Impact Report.

Each Element includes one or more goals, and the policies and programs necessary to reach that goal. The goal is the most general statement in the policy-making process. The policies provide decision-makers with direction as they consider development in the City. Finally, the programs provide implementation mechanisms for the policies, including funding priorities, major development standards, and staffing responsibilities. The programs also include mechanisms to allow the City to respond to changes in market and environmental conditions as time passes.

The General Plan also includes maps and graphics which illustrate and support policies and programs, and as such are integral to the General Plan document.